



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 033228-019

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Morihito NOMURA et al.)
Application No.: 10/042,309) Group Art Unit: 3677
Filed: January 11, 2002) Examiner: D. Melwani
For: VEHICLE DOOR HANDLE DEVICE) Confirmation No.: 4265

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

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In response to the Official Action dated January 29, 2003, the following remarks
are submitted.

The Official Action indicates that the claims in this application are directed to two
different species. As identified in the Official Action, the two species are as follows.

Species I illustrated in Figs. 1-5.

Species II shown in Figs. 6-11.

Based on the observation that the two species are patentably distinct from one
another, an election of species requirement has been imposed requiring an election of one
of the two species.

In response to the election of species requirement, applicants hereby elect, with
traverse, Species I illustrated in Figs. 1-5. Claims 1-6 and 12-16 are readable on the
elected species. A least independent Claim 12 is generic to both species of the invention.

The election of Species I is made with traverse because it is believed that all of the claims of this application can be examined at the same time without serious burden. In one respect, the search required for the non-elected species would be substantially coextensive with the search associated with the elected species. In addition, examining all of the claims of this application at the same time would only involve consideration of a few additional claims.

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the election of species requirement and examination of all of the claims of this application, including Claims 1-6 and 12-16 directed to the elected species, are respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Matthew L. Schneider
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

P. O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
Phone: (703) 836-6620

Date: February 28, 2003



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 033228-019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) **BOX NON-FEE RESPONSE**
Morihito NOMURA et al.)
Application No.: 10/042,309) Group Art Unit: 3677
Filed: January 11, 2002) Examiner: D. Melwani
For: VEHICLE DOOR HANDLE DEVICE) Confirmation No.: 4265

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

A Terminal Disclaimer and the [] \$55.00 (2814) [] \$110.00 (1814) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

Also enclosed is/are Claim for Convention Priority

Small entity status is hereby claimed.

Applicant(s) request continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the [] \$375.00 (2801) [] \$750.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

Applicant(s) previously submitted _____, on _____, for which continued examination is requested.

Applicant(s) request suspension of action by the Office until at least _____, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

No additional claim fee is required.

An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	NO. OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST NO. OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	ADDT'L FEE
Total Claims	18	MINUS 20 =	0	× \$18.00 (1202) =	0.00
Independent Claims	3	MINUS 3 =	0	× \$84.00 (1201) =	0.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$280.00 (1203)					0.00
Total Amendment Fee					0.00
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Amendment Fee					0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					0.00

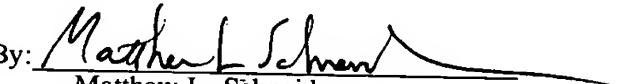
A claim fee in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
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